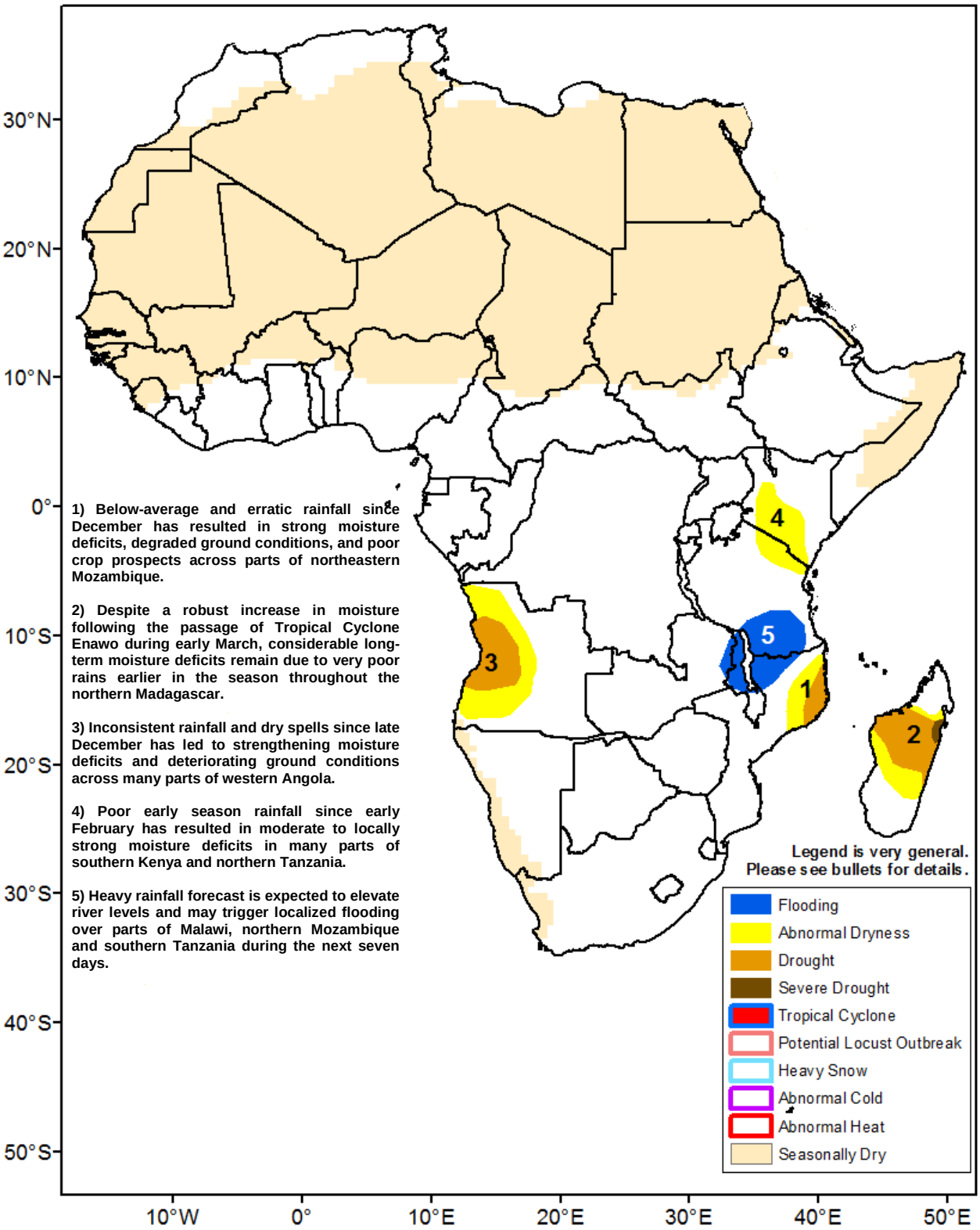
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
March 30 – April 5, 2017

- **Dryness worsens in western Angola.**
- **Increased rainfall in Ethiopia during the last week helps to alleviate early season dryness.**



1) Below-average and erratic rainfall since December has resulted in strong moisture deficits, degraded ground conditions, and poor crop prospects across parts of northeastern Mozambique.

2) Despite a robust increase in moisture following the passage of Tropical Cyclone Enawo during early March, considerable long-term moisture deficits remain due to very poor rains earlier in the season throughout the northern Madagascar.

3) Inconsistent rainfall and dry spells since late December has led to strengthening moisture deficits and deteriorating ground conditions across many parts of western Angola.

4) Poor early season rainfall since early February has resulted in moderate to locally strong moisture deficits in many parts of southern Kenya and northern Tanzania.

5) Heavy rainfall forecast is expected to elevate river levels and may trigger localized flooding over parts of Malawi, northern Mozambique and southern Tanzania during the next seven days.

Increased rainfall in Ethiopia brings some relief to early season "Belg" dryness

During the last week, an increase in the quantity and spatial distribution of seasonal rainfall was observed throughout Ethiopia. According to satellite rainfall estimates, widespread moderate (25-50mm) to locally heavier amounts (>50mm) of precipitation were received throughout the SNNP, Oromia, eastern Amhara, Afar, and northern Ogaden regions of the country (**Figure 1**). In Somalia, increased, but light amounts of precipitation were also received along the upper Jubba and Shabelle river basins, perhaps suggesting a slightly early onset of seasonal rainfall in the country. Further south, well-distributed, but relatively low rainfall was received in Uganda, Kenya, and the bimodal areas of Tanzania.

Since late February, the early stages of the seasonal rainfall in the Greater Horn of Africa have been slightly erratic. While the analysis of February rainfall suggests favorable conditions with positive moisture anomalies, the temporal distribution of early season rainfall has been more unfavorable with extended periods of little to no rainfall during the last several weeks. Despite an increase in rainfall during the last week, there remain several areas that are below-average since late February. In southern Kenya and northern Tanzania, early season dryness has been markedly more persistent. Analysis of moisture anomalies over the last 30 days depicts a strengthening of seasonal dryness with deficits ranging between 25-50mm (**Figure 2**). A continuation of dryness is expected to lead to deteriorating ground conditions throughout the region.

For the upcoming outlook period, a seasonable distribution of rainfall is forecast throughout much of Ethiopia. Some local areas in the SNNP and Oromia region may receive enhanced rainfall. Further south, however, suppressed low to locally moderate rainfall accumulations are forecast throughout Kenya and northern Tanzania which is not expected to help improve moisture deficits.

7-Day Satellite-Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: March 20 - 26, 2017

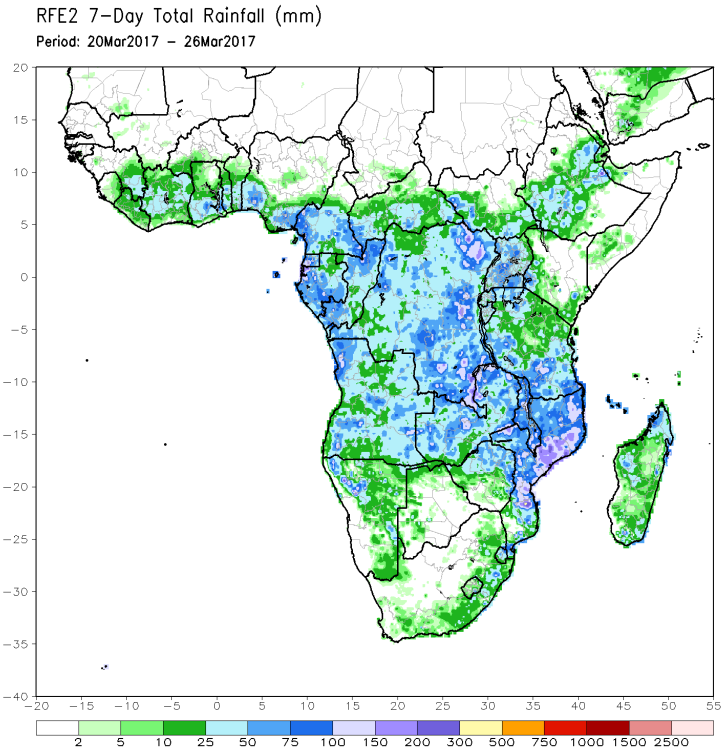


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

30-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: February 25 – March 26, 2017

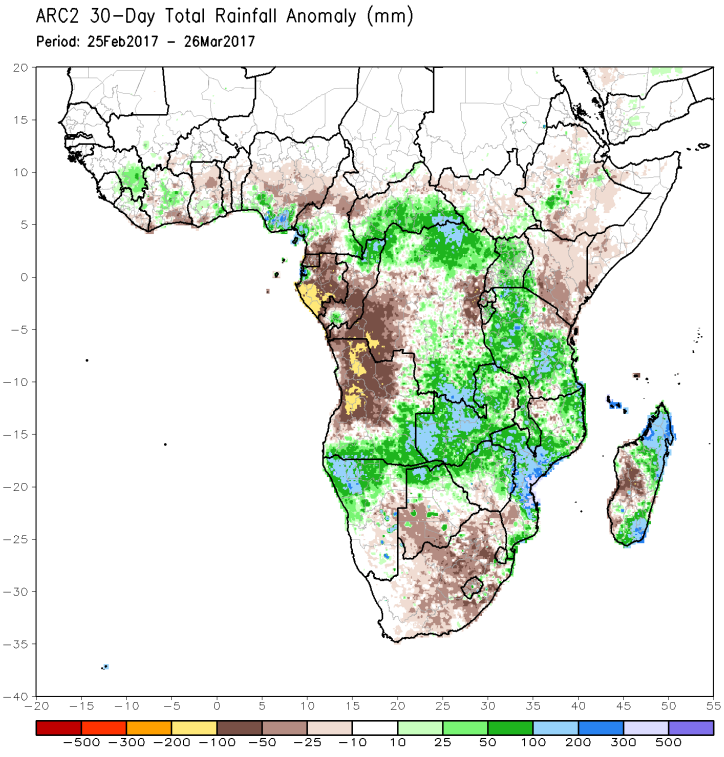


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Heavy rains return over southeastern Africa, as dryness worsens over Angola.

In southern Africa, the return of significantly heavy rains was observed across central and northern Mozambique, with amounts exceeding 100mm throughout several provinces of the country. During the next week, a northward shift in late season enhanced rainfall is expected to continue over northern Mozambique, Malawi, and southern Tanzania, which is expected to elevate the risk of flooding.

Further west, another week of low rainfall totals across western Angola in late March has exacerbated seasonal moisture deficits, as the dryness is expanding further north. Over the past 30 days, many provinces are now experiencing deficits ranging between 100-200mm (**Figure 2**). Precipitation models suggest a continuation of low to locally moderate totals into early April.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.